

Space Administration (NASA) to promote private-sector involvement and competition in the development of industrial space products.

By authorizing the Transportation Department's Office of Commercial Space Transportation to issue licenses to private companies for launching re-usable space vehicles, this measure allows commercial entities to launch vehicles into space and pilot them back to earth. Currently, private companies are not permitted to pilot their vehicles back to earth after a launch.

Providing this authorization will foster the development of a strong, private-sector space transportation industry in our country. It is my hope that this sector of the space industry will result in cost-effective transport services to NASA and commercial companies.

This measure also requires NASA to begin purchasing space transportation services from the private sector when such services are available. This portion of the bill has been carefully crafted to permit NASA autonomy when necessary. For instance, projects that require the unique capabilities of the space shuttle and sensitive national security projects would be excepted from the bill's requirement regarding NASA's utilization of private sector providers. More importantly, the use of commercial services would not be required for missions beyond Earth orbit, missions such as flights to the Moon, Mars, or beyond.

I also support this measure's advocacy of the U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS). This piece of legislation encourages the President to ensure the continued operation of the U.S. GPS navigation satellites on a world-wide basis. By promoting the U.S. GPS through international agreements, we can encourage our global partners to accept this extraordinary system as the international standard.

Finally, I believe that this measure's requirement that NASA plan for the potential privatization of the space shuttle is appropriate. The continued deployment of shuttle missions is imperative, and it is possible that private-sector corporations could provide more cost-efficient launches. By merging commercial and government resources, we could ensure that the space shuttle will remain a viable fixture in space exploration for many years to come.

This measure appeals to all involved, and I am certain that cooperation between American Government and commercial entities will pave the way to the exploration of unimaginable frontiers.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 572.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all the Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 572, the resolution just agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4570, OMNIBUS NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC LANDS ACT OF 1998

Mr. MCINNIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-776) on the resolution (H. Res. 573) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4570) to provide for certain boundary adjustments and conveyances involving public lands, to establish and improve the management of certain heritage areas, historic areas, National Parks, wild and scenic rivers, and national trails, to protect communities by reducing hazardous fuels levels on public lands, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4194, DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-777) on the resolution (H. Res. 574) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 4(b) OF RULE XI WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. MCINNIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-778) on the resolution (H. Res. 575) waiving a requirement of clause 4(b) of rule XI with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4259, HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY AND SOUTHWESTERN INDIAN POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS ACT OF 1998

Mr. MCINNIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-779) on the resolution (H. Res. 576) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4259) to allow Haskell Indian Nations University and the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute each to conduct a demonstration project to test the feasibility and desirability of new personnel management policies and procedures, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

EXPORT APPLE ACT

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4148) to amend the Export Apple and Pear Act to limit the applicability of the Act to apples.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4148

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SCOPE OF EXPORT APPLE AND PEAR ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—The Act of June 10, 1933 (7 U.S.C. 581 et seq.; commonly known as the Export Apple and Pear Act), is amended by adding at the end the following new section: "SEC. 11. This Act may be cited as the 'Export Apple Act'."

(b) DEFINITION OF APPLES.—Section 9 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 589) is amended by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following new paragraph:

"(4) The term 'apples' means fresh whole apples, whether or not the apples have been in storage."

(c) ELIMINATION OF REFERENCES TO PEARS.—Such Act is further amended—

(1) by striking "and/or pears" each place it appears in the first section and sections 5 and 6; and

(2) by striking "or pears" each place it appears in the first section and sections 2, 3, and 4.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EWING) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EWING).

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4148, a bill that amends the Export Apple and Pear Act to exclude pears from this act. This is being done because farmers producing pears for export advise us that this action will benefit the industry's effort to increase exports of pears.

Additionally, the U.S. Department of Agriculture advised the Committee on Agriculture that mandatory Federal quality standards are no longer needed to assure the high quality of exported pears. USDA believes that the U.S.